

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 XMB-02 TRSE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 OMB-01 /068 W

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R 011544Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3652

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA/BRUSSELS

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DEPARTMENT PASS COMMERCE FOR COHEN AND HALE;

EXIMBANK FOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES (SAA) RE-EQUIPMENT AND LINES OF
DEVELOPMENT

REF: BEIRUT 3412, 4015; DAMASCUS 1023, 1162, 1166;
BEIRUT 3661

SUMMARY. SAA CHAIRMAN, IN MEETING WITH EMBASSY, RCAA,
AND FAA MARCH 27, INDICATED FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING
LATE 1974 ORDER FIVE NEW BOEING AIRCRAFT AND THEIR
PROBABLE DEPLOYMENT. ALSO CHAIRMAN INDICATED STRONG
INTEREST IN TRAINING FACILITIES OFFERED BY FAA ACADEMY
FOR SAA PERSONNEL. HE ALSO INDICATED LACK OF SUCCESS
SO FAR IN OBTAINING INTERIM WELTEASE BOEING 727-200'S;
AND PROBABLE SELECTION BRITISH MIDLAND AIRWAYS WET-
LEASE TWO BOEING 707-321 AIRCRAFT COMMENCING MAY 1, 1975

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UNLESS MORE ATTRACTIVE WELTEASE OFFER MADE

BEFORE APRIL 10.

1. VISIT DAMASCUS MARCH 27 OF FAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR (EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA) CLAYDE PACE GAVE US OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SAA'S PRESENT STATUS AND LINES OF DEVELOPMENT WITH AIRLINE'S CHAIRMAN ASSAD MOUKAYED AND STAFF. FIRSTLY, SAA SIGNED FINAL AND DEFINITIVE SALES CONTRACT WITH THE BOING COMPANY ABOUT MARCH 17 AND WITH PRATT AND WHITNEY MARCH 24 COVERING FIVE NEW BOEINGS ORDERED LATE LAST YEAR. TOTAL VALUE OF SALE \$133 MILLION INCLUDING FOLLOWING: TWO 747 SP AND THREE ADVANCED 727-200 AIRCRAFT, \$103 MILLION; THREE SPARE P & W JT8D-17A TPOINES, \$2.0 MILLION; THREE SPARE P & W JTD9D-7A ENGINES, \$4.2 MILLION; ESTIMATED \$24 MILLION SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT NOT YET CONTRACTED FOR WILL BUILD TOTAL TO \$133 MILLION. DELIVERY DATES NOW SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS: BOEING ADVANCED 727-200'S MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 1976; BOEING 747 SP'S MAY, JULY 1976.

2. FAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR PACE OUTLINED FAA FACILITIES, PARTICULARLY TRAINING COURSES OFFERED AT FAA ACADEMY, OKLAHOMA CITY. MOUKAYED EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN SAA TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AND POSSIBLY, SARG DCA PERSONNEL, RECEIVING SUCH TRAINING. CHAIRMAN AWAITING MANUAL OF TRAINING COURSES OFFERED BY FAA AND WILL SELECT ONES REQUIRED. MEANWHILE SAA TECHNICAL OFFICIAL ENROUTE BOEING-SEATTLE WILL TAKE QUICK LOOK AT FAA FACILITIES OKLAHOMA CITY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. WE ARE HIGHLY PLEASED BY CHAIRMAN MOUKAYED'S POSITIVE RESPONSE TO FAA'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE TO SAA. IN THIS REGARD, MOKAYED EMPHASIZED NEW BOEING FLEET MUST NOT BE DRAG ON SARG'S FINANCES BUT FIRST PRIORITY IS SAFETY AND, IN THIS GOAL, FAA COULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO SAA.

3. COMMENCING APRIL 21, SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES WILL EXTEND PRESENT DAMASCUS-TRIPOLI ROUTE WESTWARD TO TUNIS, ALGIERS AND CASABLANCA ONE ROUND TRIP WEEKLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WILL ALSO EXTEND WEEKLY ATHENS-EAST BERLIN SERVICES NORTH TO COPENHAGEN. FURTHER, INDICATIONS AIRLINE EXTENDING SERVICES TO ADDITIONAL NEW POINTS RABAT, MUSCAT, BAHRAIN AND ANKARA LATER THIS YEAR.

4. BRITISH AIRTOURS WELEASE AGREEMENT WITH SAA COVERING TWO BOEING 707-321'S EXPIRES APRIL 30 AND WILL NOT BE EXTENDED. HOWEVER, MOUKAYED INDICATES

A NEW CONTRACT MAY 1, 1975--APRIL 30, 1975 COVERING
WELEASE TWO 707-321 AIRCRAFT WILL GO TO BRITISH
MIDLAND AIRWAYS, LTD. UNLESS SOME OPERATOR CAN
OFFER WETLEASE TWO BOEING 727-200'S. MOUKAYED
PREFERS WETLEASED 727-200'S TO 707-321'S AS WOULD
PROVIDE SIMULTANEOUS FLIGHT-CREW AND GROUND PERSONNEL
PRACTICAL TRAINING WITH THE AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO SAA'S
RECEIPT OF OWN ADVANCED 727-200'S COMMENCING MARCH
1976. MOUKAYED INDICATES 727-200'S OFFERED FOR WET-
LEASE TO HIS AIRLINE MUST BE POWERED BY JT8D-15 OR
JT8D-17 ENGINES. THROUGH BOEING, ALIA RECENTLY
OFFERED LEASE ONE 727-200 ON
BEHALF U.S. OWNER BUT WITH NO CREWS, AND JAT RECENTLY
OFFERED WETLEASE TWO 727-200'S BUT AVIONICS NOT
SIMILAR TO AIRCRAFT ORDERED BY SAA. ANY NEW WET-
LEASE OFFER SHOULD BE PRESENTED BEFORE APRIL 10.

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5. WITH REFERENCE TO WETLEASE OFFER AEROAMERICA, INC.
(SEE REFTELS DAMASCUS 1023 AND BEIRUT 3412, 4015)
COVERING TWO 707-321'S, MOUKAYED INDICATES PREFERENCE
BRITISH MIDLAND AIRWAYS BECAUSE BOEING INDICATED LACK
OF CONFIDENCE IN AEROAMERICA. WE AT LOSS UNDERSTAND

BEOING'S NEGATIVE RECOMMENDATION IN VIEW INFORMATION
AEROAMERICA PERFORMING SIX LEASING CONTRACTS IN VERY
SATISFACTORY MANNER.

6. MOUKAYED INDICATES SAA WILL CLOSELY COORDINATE
747SP AND ADVANCED 727-200 MAINTENANCE
WITH THE ATLAS GROUP (AIR FRANCE, LUFTHANSA,
ALITALIA, SABEN), WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS AIR FRANCE.
SYRIAN ARAB FLIGHT AND MAINTENANCE/ENGINEERING PER-
SONNEL EARMARKED FOR 747SP AND ADVANCED
727-200 PROGRAMS WILL RECEIVE FLIGHT AND GROUND
SCHOOL TRAINING BOEING-SEATTLE COMMENCING JULY 1975,
INCLUDING EIGHT 747SP AND TWELVE ADVANCED 727-200
THREE-MAN FLIGHT CREWS, 40 BEOING 747SP TECHNICIANS,
AND 40 ADVANCED 727-200 TECHNICIANS.

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7. SAA CHAIRMAN INDICATES 747SP'S INITIAL DEPLOYMENT
FOUR ROUNDTrip SERVICES WEEKLY DAMASCUS-LONDON (VIA
EUROPEAN INTERMEDIATES), THREE ROUNDTrip WEEKLY
DAMASCUS-KARACHI (VIA GULF/IRAN INTERMEDIATES) AND
ONE ROUNDTrip WEEKLY DAMASCUS-NEW DELHI. HE INDICATES
AWARENESS 747SP ECONOMICS OPTIMUM ON LONG-RANGE
ROUTES AND, AS SUCH, HOPES FOR ULTIMATE DEPLOYMENT
ARAB-CARRIER-CONSORTIUM ROUTES TO U.S. AND FAR EAST.

8. MOUKAYED STATES
CARAVELLES WILL BE RETAINED UNTIL 1979 OR 1980
(DESPITE POOR FUEL-EFFICIENCY AND MAINTAINABILITY).
THREE CARAVELLES HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED MAJOR ENGINE
AND AIRFRAME OVERHAUL, INCLUDING WING-
SPAR MODIFICATION. GEORGE PHOLE, DOUGLAS REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE BEIRUT, CALLED ON PLANNING MANAGER
BALI MARCH 27 WHO INDICATES, CONTRARY TO CHAIRMAN'S
EXPRESSED VIEWS, AIRLINE WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE FOUR
TO FIVE NEW TWINJET AIRCRAFT IN CATEGORY MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS
DC-9-30, BOEING 737-200, BAC 111-500 COMMENCING SPRING 1977 TO
REPLACE CARAVELLES FOR SHORTER-RANGE REGIONAL ROUTES
AND ALSO FOR DEPLOYMENT DOMESTIC ROUTES BETWEEN
DAMASCUS AND ALEPPO, KAMISHLY, DEIREZZOR, AND, LATER,
PALMYRA.

9. SAA PRESENT PERSONNEL ROSTER APPROXIMATELY 1500,
AND FLEET INCLUDES FOUR CARAVELL SUPER B'S AND TWO
WETLEASED 707-321'S.
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